

Table 5A. **Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability¹ for Annual Operating Expenses and Operating Expenses as a Percent of Sales for U.S. Merchant Wholesalers: 2002 through 2006**

[Estimates are shown as a percentage and are based on data from the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey.]

2002 NAICS CODE	Data Item	Kind of Business (sub-parts indicated by one or more leading dots)	Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability ¹				
			2002 ²	2003 ²	2004 ²	2005 ²	2006
42	Operating expenses	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.3
423	Operating expenses	.Durable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.3
4231	Operating expenses	..Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.6
4232	Operating expenses	..Furniture and Home Furnishings	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8
4233	Operating expenses	..Lumber & Other Construction Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8
4234	Operating expenses	..Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.7
42343	Operating expenses	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.7
4235	Operating expenses	..Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.8
4236	Operating expenses	..Electrical Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.1
4237	Operating expenses	..Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.2
4238	Operating expenses	..Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4
4239	Operating expenses	..Miscellaneous Durable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.4
424	Operating expenses	.Nondurable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.0
4241	Operating expenses	..Paper and Paper Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.5
4242	Operating expenses	..Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.9
4243	Operating expenses	..Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.2
4244	Operating expenses	..Groceries and Related Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.0
4245	Operating Expenses	..Farm Product Raw Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	18.9
4246	Operating expenses	..Chemicals and Allied Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.6
4247	Operating expenses	..Petroleum and Petroleum Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.7
4248	Operating expenses	..Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.2
4249	Operating expenses	..Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.4
42	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1
423	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	.Durable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1
4231	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1
4232	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Furniture and Home Furnishings	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4233	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Lumber & Other Construction Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4234	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
42343	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4235	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4236	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Electrical Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4237	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4238	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4239	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Miscellaneous Durable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9
424	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	.Nondurable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4241	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Paper and Paper Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.0
4242	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4243	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4244	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Groceries and Related Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.7
4245	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Farm Product Raw Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.3
4246	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Chemicals and Allied Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4247	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Petroleum and Petroleum Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4248	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4249	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4

2002 NAICS CODE	Data Item	Kind of Business (sub-parts indicated by one or more leading dots)	Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability ¹				
			2002 ²	2003 ²	2004 ²	2005 ²	2006
42	Operating expenses	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers'	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.7
423	Operating expenses	..Durable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.6
4231	Operating expenses	...Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.1
4232	Operating expenses	...Furniture and Home Furnishings	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.4
4233	Operating expenses	...Lumber & Other Construction Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.1
4234	Operating expenses	...Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8
42343	Operating expenses	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.5
4235	Operating expenses	...Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.2
4236	Operating expenses	...Electrical Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.3
4237	Operating expenses	...Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.4
4238	Operating expenses	...Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.1
4239	Operating expenses	...Miscellaneous Durable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	8.1
424	Operating expenses	..Nondurable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.3
4241	Operating expenses	...Paper and Paper Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.2
4242	Operating expenses	...Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.2
4243	Operating expenses	...Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4
4244	Operating expenses	...Groceries and Related Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.4
4245	Operating Expenses	...Farm Product Raw Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	18.9
4246	Operating expenses	...Chemicals and Allied Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.4
4247	Operating expenses	...Petroleum and Petroleum Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.8
4248	Operating expenses	...Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4
4249	Operating expenses	...Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.9
42	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers'	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
423	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Durable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4231	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4232	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Furniture and Home Furnishings	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4233	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Lumber & Other Construction Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4234	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
42343	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4235	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4236	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Electrical Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4237	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4238	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4239	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Miscellaneous Durable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.0
424	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Nondurable goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4241	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Paper and Paper Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.7
4242	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4
4243	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5
4244	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Groceries and Related Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.8
4245	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Farm Product Raw Materials	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.3
4246	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Chemicals and Allied Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.6
4247	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Petroleum and Petroleum Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2
4248	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3
4249	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5

2002 NAICS CODE	Data Item	Kind of Business (sub-parts indicated by one or more leading dots)	Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability ¹				
			2002 ²	2003 ²	2004 ²	2005 ²	2006
42	Operating expenses	Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.8	1.9
423	Operating expenses	..Durable goods	4.2	3.6	1.7	1.6	2.1
4231	Operating expenses	..Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	2.0	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.5
4232	Operating expenses	..Furniture and Home Furnishings	7.4	7.8	6.0	3.9	4.3
4233	Operating expenses	..Lumber & Other Construction Materials	3.7	4.0	6.0	5.9	5.3
4234	Operating expenses	..Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.1
42343	Operating expenses	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	5.6	7.5	4.2	3.8	3.2
4235	Operating expenses	..Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	11.1	11.0	2.8	2.7	4.2
4236	Operating expenses	..Electrical Goods	12.7	10.4	3.0	3.3	6.5
4237	Operating expenses	..Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.3	4.0
4238	Operating expenses	..Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	5.2	15.2	6.9	6.5	6.7
4239	Operating expenses	..Miscellaneous Durable Goods	(S)	(S)	6.2	6.4	7.7
424	Operating expenses	..Nondurable goods	2.2	1.9	3.3	3.9	3.6
4241	Operating expenses	..Paper and Paper Products	4.3	4.3	14.4	16.8	15.4
4242	Operating expenses	..Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	3.6	3.7	7.7	7.8	7.7
4243	Operating expenses	..Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	7.2	8.7	7.5	8.5	9.2
4244	Operating expenses	..Groceries and Related Products	5.8	4.8	7.1	6.8	6.7
4246	Operating expenses	..Chemicals and Allied Products	3.1	2.6	7.4	9.2	9.0
4247	Operating expenses	..Petroleum and Petroleum Products	4.8	4.0	5.9	4.8	5.7
4248	Operating expenses	..Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	(Z)	(Z)	6.6	6.8	6.0
4249	Operating expenses	..Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.8	10.3	9.9	10.2
42	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
423	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Durable goods	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
4231	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)
4232	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Furniture and Home Furnishings	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4
4233	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Lumber & Other Construction Materials	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
4234	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
42343	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1
4235	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
4236	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Electrical Goods	1.9	1.7	0.3	0.3	(S)
4237	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
4238	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6
4239	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Miscellaneous Durable Goods	(S)	(S)	1.0	1.0	1.1
424	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Nondurable goods	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
4241	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Paper and Paper Products	0.3	0.3	2.4	3.5	3.1
4242	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5
4243	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7
4244	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Groceries and Related Products	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
4246	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Chemicals and Allied Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
4247	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Petroleum and Petroleum Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
4248	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	(Z)	(Z)	0.9	0.8	(S)
4249	Operating expenses as a percent of sales	..Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.8	(S)

Notes:

NA Corresponding estimate in Table 5 is not available because operating expenses for U.S. Merchant Wholesalers except Manufacturers Sales Branches and Offices were not collected prior to 2006.

(Z) Estimate is less than 0.05%.

(S) Corresponding estimate in Table 5 does not meet publication standards because of high sampling variability (coefficient of variation is greater than 30%) or poor response quality (total quantity response rate is less than 50%). For a description of publication standards and the total quantity response rate, see http://www.census.gov/quality/S20-0_v1.0_Data_Release.pdf. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <http://www.census.gov/wholesale/www/methodology/011341.html>.

Footnotes:

¹ Estimated measures of sampling variability for operating expenses are given as coefficients of variation. Estimated measures of sampling variability for operating expenses/sales ratios are given as standard errors.

² Revised data.